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PATENT
Atty. Docket No.: CMM-009 (5352/10)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Rudduck CONFIRMATION NO.: 5912
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/646,741 GROUP NUMBER: 3679
FILING DATE: September 18, 2000 EXAMINER: K Thompson
TITLE: Fixing and Release Systems

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent Office on August 15, 2002. The shortened statutory period for response expired on November 15, 2002. As such, Applicant respectfully petitions for a two-month extension of time, thereby extending the period for response up to and including January 15, 2003. Included herewith is a check for the petition fee. Please charge Deposit Account No. 20-0531 for any additional fees required with the submission of this Amendment and Response. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and Response and reconsideration of the pending claims.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Drawings:

Applicant hereby amends Fig. 7 in red ink to include a legend "Prior Art" as requested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the change by the Examiner.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10-14, and 16, and add claims 45-53.

1. (Amended) A connecting means adapted to releasably fix a first element and a second element, the connecting means comprising a locking means movable in a deformable channel by

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